

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112386
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DGWAGNER:ZC

APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:JCHAAHR

-----007972 031500Z /50

R 031433Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 112386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PN, BDIS, ECRE, EAIR

SUBJECT:CLAIM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL FOR NEW
PANAMA AIRPORT

REFERENCE: WAGNER/PANOS TELECON, APRIL 3, 1978

1. SINCE APRIL 3, DESK HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION ABOUT THE
CLAIM BY A TEXAN FIRM AGAINST THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR
CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE NEW TOCUMEN AIRPORT. THE COMPANY
IS LINBECK CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION (LEO E. LINBECK, JR.,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER), 3810 WEST ALABAMA, HOUSTON, TEXAS.
OTHER COMPANIES INVOLVED, POSSIBLY SUBSIDIARIES, ARE
LINBECK INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, AND CONSORCIO LINBECK-
CONSTRUCTORA LATINOAMERICANA, S.A. (P.O. BOX 22500,
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027, PHONE: (713) 621-2350). THE COMPANY'S
LAWYER IS OWEN W. CECIL OF FULBRIGHT AND JAWORSKI OF
HOUSTON, TEXAS.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DATES FROM MARCH 10, 1978.
LINBECK'S CONTRACT CALLED FOR DOLS 25 MILLION IN WORK. THE
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DECEMBER 1977 PAYMENT IS IN ARREARS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE
THE AMOUNT. THE COMPANY ALSO HAS CLAIMS OF DOLS 5.4 MIL-
LION FOR DELAYS AND DISRUPTION COSTS. ON MARCH 10, 1978,
LEO LINBECK, JAMES W. BRYDON (VICE PRESIDENT, LINBECK CON-

STRUCTION CORPORATION), AND CECIL MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFI-
CERS TO DISCUSS THE CASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATY

DEBATE. THE COMPANY FEARED THAT SUB-CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS COULD HAVE MADE THE CASE A POLITICAL ISSUE. WE AGREED TO MAKE AN INFORMAL, ROUTINE INQUIRY WITH THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, AND DID SO ON MARCH 31. WE HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE TO DATE AND CONTEMPLATE NO FURTHER ACTION AT THE MOMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS NO SPECIFIC ACTION BY EMBASSY. IF, HOWEVER, THE CASE COMES UP AGAIN, WE WILL REFER THE COMPANY TO THE EMBASSY. RICHARD WYROUGHWILL DELIVER TO PANAMA A COPY OF OUR FILE ON THE SUBJECT FOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, CLAIMS, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE112386
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DGWAGNER:ZC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0888
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780596/aaaademi.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 662923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2802470
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLAIM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL FOR NEW PANAMA AIRPORT
TAGS: BDIS, ECRE, EAIR, PN, LINBECK CONSTRUCTION CORP, (LINBECK, LEO E JR)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/662923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014